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Attorney Docket No. FUSA 16.745

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Hideaki ONO et al

Serial No.: 09/441,124

Filed: November 17, 1999

Title: **CELL PROCESSING APPARATUS, ATM EXCHANGE AND
CELL DISCARDING METHOD**

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2739

January 18, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of a Search Report dated December 21, 2000.

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is
due.

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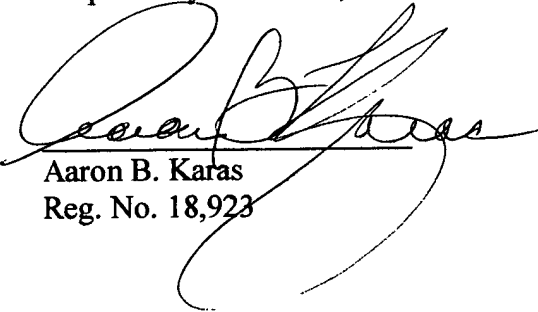
As one document is written in a language other than English, an English language abstract is annexed hereto explaining the relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 08-1634.

Respectfully submitted,



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